

Surveys for a Better Texas

Research institute surveys Texas state government to make it better and create public trust

PAGE 4

Viewpoint

The immigrant paradox : PAGE 2

CSI: Reality Check

Uncovering the complexities of investigating sexual assault crimes : PAGE 7

GRACE for the Grey Tsunami

Serving the needs of the growing numbers of elderly Americans : PAGE 10

Features

4



Surveys for a Better Texas

For the past thirty years, the Institute for Organizational Excellence has been surveying the Texas state government to make it better and create public trust.

7



CSI: Reality Check

Social work researchers uncover the complexities of investigating and responding to sexual assault crimes in action research project with the Houston Police Department

10



GRACE for the Grey Tsunami

GRACE program trains master's students to work with the increasing numbers of elderly Americans

2

Viewpoint

12

SSW News

14

Faculty News

16

Alumni & Friends

19

Development

Cover photo:

"Pencils" by Marcin Wichary,
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/mwich-ary/2210781964>.

the utopian

Fall 2014 Volume 14 / Issue 2

Editor and Director of Communications
M. Andrea Campetella, Ph.D.

Contributors to this issue
M. Andrea Campetella
Andrew Rechnitz
Christopher Salas-Wright
Carrie Stephens
Laura Wells

Photography
Miguel Gutierrez Jr.
Marsha Miller
Callie Richmond
Carrie Stephens
Laura Wells

Design Conception
www.fangmandesign.com

The Utopian is published for alumni and friends of The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work. All submissions are subject to editing and are used at the Editor's discretion. Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect official school and/or university policy. Articles might be reprinted in full or in part with written permission of the Editor. Your comments are welcome. Please send comments, news items, suggestions and address changes to:

The Utopian Editor
School of Social Work
The University of Texas at Austin
1925 San Jacinto Blvd
Stop D3500
Austin, TX 78712-1405
Email: utopian@utlists.utexas.edu
Phone: 512-471-1458
Fax: 512-471-9600



Find us on Facebook,
www.facebook.com/utssw

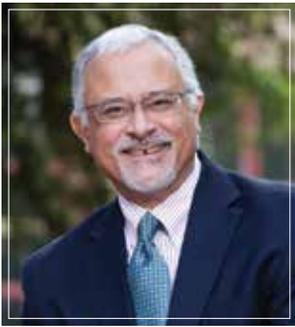


Follow us on Twitter,
twitter.com/SocialWorkUTex



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL WORK

From Dean Luis H. Zayas



This summer may be remembered as the “summer of discontent,” as many in the media dubbed the racially tense weeks in Ferguson and Staten Island during August. Turmoil seemed to sprout everywhere this summer—Missouri, New York, the border, the Middle East, Iraq—and jump at us from screens of all sizes, Twitter feeds, and Facebook postings. Today’s crises may be age-old, but their immediacy is new: they are happening in real-time in our living rooms, or in our own hands as we hold our mobile devices. The sense of helplessness this immediacy provokes is also new. As an NPR correspondent put it, we scroll through the horrors while thinking, “This is happening right in front of me. I have to do something. Yet I’m so far away.”

Social work is one way of erasing this sense of distance through the power of actions, and through the empowerment that comes with making a difference, however small, in this world. This new academic year, as I welcomed students to our School, I emphasized that social work is as much a profession as a commitment to social justice.

We don’t look at inequity, violence, discrimination, and other social ills and simply say, “It’s inevitable.” As social workers, we say, “It’s intolerable!” And we go into action—whether this means teaching, doing research, or working in the community.

This summer of discontent has made clear how much work needs to be done in our country. But here, in true social work fashion, I want to take a strengths-based approach and emphasize some of the resources we already have and work we are already doing at the School to address some of this summer’s reasons for discontent.

Crises like Ferguson’s remind us of the critical role social workers can play to help improve community-police relations across the United States. In the last issue of this magazine you read about *Restore Rundberg*, a project with the Austin Police Department to find innovative ways to reduce and prevent crime in one of Austin’s neighborhoods. This issue brings you an action research project that Dr. Noël Busch-Armendariz has led with the Houston Police Department to improve the response system to sexual assault crimes and give victims a voice in the process.

The influx of Central American child refugees to the border and the heated immigration debate that followed provided an opportunity for us, as social workers, to intervene and contribute to the public discussion. Doctoral student Laurie Cook Heffron was in Guatemala this summer

as a member of a human rights delegation, meeting with government leaders, the US Embassy, and most importantly, national and community-based leaders. I conducted *pro bono* mental health evaluations of Central American mothers and children refugees in detention centers, as part of a national delegation of immigration attorneys protecting refugees’ rights. Dr. Chris Salas-Wright penned an editorial summarizing his research on immigrants and risk behaviors, which we reproduce in this issue. With incoming doctoral student Amy Thompson, I penned an op-ed that appeared in the Huffington Post, where we recommended readings on unaccompanied migrant children to Congress and the President. Among the readings was *Children on the Run*, a UN report to which researchers and students from our School had contributed.

Like our faculty and students, we cannot sit and watch. In the tradition of social work, we act and we want our students to think of action as a life-long part of our profession and our passion. I hope these examples of how we, as social workers, are transforming reasons for discontent into reasons for action help you look back at the summer of 2014 with different eyes.

You are reading these pages because social work and our School matter to you. In my first Utopian letter, two years ago, I said that my abiding mission was to raise the amount of scholarship aid we can offer our students. They come to social work with a sense of purpose and a calling, and we must help them transform this calling into a viable profession by reducing their tuition debt. Today, I want to thank all of you for your contributions through the recently completed Campaign for Texas. Thanks to your gifts, our School is now able to support twice as many students as it supported before the campaign began.

As you look back to the summer of 2014, I hope you remember that your generosity allows all of us at the School to engage with the very difficult problems of our day and keep doing what social workers do—caring for individuals, families, and communities; leading groups and institutions to reduce disparities and improve living conditions; and influencing leaders, legislators, and policy-makers to do what is right and just.

Sincerely,

Luis H. Zayas, Ph.D.
*Dean and Robert Lee Sutherland Chair
in Mental Health and Social Policy*

The Immigrant Paradox

by Christopher Salas-Wright



It is not unusual to see negative depictions of immigrants in the media and in popular culture. In particular, immigrants are often viewed as dangerous and prone to involvement in problem behaviors like violence, crime, and substance abuse. However, our research—and the research of scholars across the United States—suggests that these depictions have little basis in reality. In fact, a growing body of evidence on the topic of the “immigrant paradox” suggests that, despite experiencing adversity on multiple fronts, immigrants are substantially less likely than native-born Americans to be involved in the vast majority of violent, antisocial, and high-risk behaviors.

Over the last few years, my colleagues and I have used nationally-representative data collected by the National Institutes of Health to systematically examine the behaviors of immigrants and non-immigrants in the United States. Our research on this topic, which has been published in journals such as *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*

“A growing body of evidence suggests that, despite experiencing adversity on multiple fronts, immigrants are substantially less likely than native-born Americans to be involved in the vast majority of violent, antisocial, and high-risk behaviors.”

and *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, tells a fascinating story. We found that, compared to native-born Americans, immigrants tend to report lower household earnings and lower educational attainment. This is noteworthy as traditional social science theorizing suggests

that such disadvantages would place immigrants at elevated risk for involvement in a wide swath of problem behaviors. And yet, immigrants in our sample were far less likely to report involvement in a host of violent and antisocial behaviors, including: property destruction, shoplifting, theft, reckless driving, fight starting, use of a weapon, and blackmail. We found very similar results for substance abuse as immigrants were substantially less likely than native-born Americans to meet diagnostic criteria for alcohol, cannabis, and other illicit drug use disorders. As summed up by the title of a *Washington Post* article that recently commented on our research, “Immigrants are less likely to do just about every bad thing a person can do.”

In our assessment, these findings represent good news for immigrants and good news for society. It is in everyone’s best interest for immigrants to do well and to steer clear of problems. Regretfully, however, this is not the full story. Our research also suggests that the protective relationship between immigrant status and violence, crime, and substance abuse tends to weaken over time. That is, we found that each year an immigrant spent in the United States was associated with small but significant increases in the probability of engaging in problem behavior. Similarly, although second-generation immigrants were also less likely than non-immigrants to be involved in problem behavior, evidence suggests that the children and grandchildren of immigrants tend to increasingly resemble native-born Americans with respect to their involvement in violence, crime, and other problem behaviors. We also found that the protective effect of immigrant status was weaker among those who came to the United States at earlier developmental stages. These points underline the fact that the relationship between immigrant status and problem

Focus: Advocating for Immigrants in Austin

behavior is not static, but rather it appears to be an ongoing process of acculturative change over time.

Overall, this research has a number of important implications. First and foremost, it provides evidence that runs counter to stereotypes that portray immigrants as dangerous, criminal, and threatening to society. While certainly some immigrants take part in problem behaviors, they are far less likely to do so than are non-immigrants. Second, evidence that the protective effect of immigrant status tends to diminish over time raises a number of provocative questions. Is there something about being in the United States that seems to increase the probability of immigrants and their children becoming involved in problem behavior? Or could it be that first-generation immigrants are simply highly motivated to succeed and tend to be surrounded by other like-minded immigrants? In this case, it may be that the protective effect simply wears off with successive generations. As such, it is important to ask what can be done to help maintain the factors that seem to protect immigrants upon arrival. In all, research on the “immigrant paradox” is important as it helps to dispel myths about immigrants, but these findings—particularly evidence that the protective effect of immigrant status tends to diminish over time—also constitute an important challenge to those working to help immigrants to preserve the psychosocial and cultural factors that help them to do well and stay out of trouble. ✨



Christopher Salas-Wright is an Assistant Professor at the School of Social Work



According to the Pew Research Center, as of 2012 Austin ranked among the top 20 Hispanic metropolitan areas. About thirty percent of Austin Hispanic residents are foreign born. **Leonor Vargas, MSSW '89**, works with many immigrant families in her position as director of the Family Resource Center-The Austin Project, at Consuelo Mendez Middle School. We talked with her about her advocacy for these families.

What are the main issues facing the Hispanic immigrant families you work with?

Many of the issues facing the adults are similar to those we saw in the early years with migrant workers. For example, if they work in construction, they often don't have water to drink at job sites or restrooms to use. They work long hours for low wages and no benefits, and are frequently subjected to unsafe working conditions. In the families, sometimes one of the parents does not have proper documentation, so there is widespread fear among children of their parents being deported. This is a big stressor for a child. I have especially seen this during the past year, in part owing to increased awareness about Secure Communities and the way it is enforced by Travis County Sheriff's Office. More generally, healthcare coverage is a significant concern for families. The average income is between 20 and 30k per year, and that's not a living wage for a family here in Austin.

In your current role, what are you able to do about these issues?

As a social worker, I feel a strong ethical responsibility to bring these issues to light and speak at every opportunity I have to the City of Austin Health Department, Health and Human Services, and our non-profit partners. By being an advocate and creating a profile of the families and their struggles, I try to help the community realize that these are our neighbors facing these issues. We also have to challenge the idea that, just because some of them are here without the proper documentation, they aren't human beings. It may be a fact that they're undocumented, but the reality is that they are members of our families, of our communities, and are contributing to our society.

How did the School of Social Work prepare you for the work you're doing now?

I had a great professor, Dr. David Austin, who asked us to read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948. When I read that, it was powerful because it claimed the right to leave one's country as a basic human right. I come from families that moved to Texas from Mexico because of human rights violations and I can see that this is still happening today. Dr. Austin would always say, “We wrote those laws for a reason, not just to forget about them.” As social workers, I believe we're called to remind people about this and to work for the development and implementation of fair and humane domestic immigration laws.



Surveys for a Better Texas

by M. Andrea Campetella

School of Social Work researchers survey the Texas state government to make it better and create public trust

If you are a Texas resident, you most likely have been to a driver's license office. Or used a state-inspected elevator. Or visited a state park. But, did you know that all these state agencies connect back to the School of Social Work? "How," you may ask.

Meet the researchers at the Institute for Organizational Excellence (IOE), one of the School's nine research institutes.

"We work to improve state government. Every two years, we survey every employee in every agency in the state of Texas. We ask about everything, from how satisfied and engaged with their job they are to what they think about supervision, training, benefits, and so on. The survey allows us to gather opinions and insights across the state, and pull it all together for each agency," explained Dr. Noel Landuyt, IOE director.

Texas is the only state in the nation with an ongoing and comprehensive employee engagement survey like this. Results are shared with all parts of the Texas government, from the governor's office to the legislature.

"The government of Texas has been using our survey's data to promote positive change for more than three decades now," said Dr. Michael Lauderdale, IOE founder and Clara Pope Willoughby Centennial Professor in Criminal Justice at the School of Social Work. "Our work has tremendous impact on how state agencies utilize resources to address the concerns that employees bring up, and to become better places to work."

A measure of the survey impact is that results are included in the workforce summaries that the state auditor produces for each agency for use during the legislative session.

"These summaries are very concise, only two pages, and so the state is very selective as to what is included. We are very proud that our survey's scores and benchmarks are featured and seen by every legislator in Texas," Landuyt said.

It all started with a governor's request

The survey started in 1979 as a specific request of governor William Clements, who wanted to know how employees felt about working for the state of Texas—something they had never been asked before.

In his book *Reinventing Texas Government*, Lauderdale explains that Clements came to the governorship with experience in the private sector, where job satisfaction and employee morale surveys were conducted as a matter of course. He also approached government as a business that needed fixing, for which you first had to identify where the problems were. For Clements, Lauderdale writes, survey data "was like one set of instruments on the dashboard that told the driver how the car was running."

Peter Flawn, president of The University of Texas at Austin at the time, connected Clements to the School of Social Work as the place with the research expertise to accomplish the task.

“It might seem strange today, but business was not really there yet,” Landuyt said. “Back in the 1960s and 1970s, you really didn’t have organizational development coming from the business school, or human resources as a developed discipline. But at social work you did have the knowledge and ability to do assessments, create questions, administer surveys, and process data.”

Lauderdale and Martha Williams, a professor and later dean of the School of Social Work, designed the first version of the survey. The main goal was to determine if employee satisfaction varied among ethnic groups, pay grades, and gender. The survey was administered to about ten thousand employees randomly drawn from about a dozen of the largest state agencies, and was scheduled every two years, to coincide with the biennial budget of the state.

During the 1980s, tumbling oil prices meant declining business activity and plummeting tax revenues in Texas.

“What is interesting is that during these hard times, even as the governor’s office shifted between Democrats and Republicans, they all shared the perception that state government was growing in responsibilities and was an important part of the mix that would help the state develop new jobs and business,” Lauderdale said. “At the same time, there was an increased emphasis on making government work better and more efficiently, on doing more with less.”

State agencies were required to create budgets based on performance measures. Agencies were directed to use the survey developed by Lauderdale and Williams as an assessment of human resources.

By 1993, it was clear that the survey was due for an update. Lauderdale led the effort, which included moving from a sampling strategy to a census approach, and hence asking all employees of an organization to complete the survey. Technological changes also played a part. Surveys were optically scanned, which shortened the delivery of results from months to days. And wider Internet access helped to disseminate results faster, as non-confidential statistical data could be loaded onto a server to be shared.

Lauderdale also set to work on increasing employees’ buy-in. Each survey was accompanied by a letter, signed by Lauderdale and the agency’s head, explaining the importance of the endeavor and including a phone number in case employees had any questions.

“There were days that I received dozens of calls,” Lauderdale recalled. “In many cases, employees just wanted to check that the person signing the letter was real! Questions about confidentiality were also

common. And almost everyone wanted to know whether anything would really happen with the results. These questions were very telling about issues that many agencies had to address.”

The efforts paid off. By 1996-1997, response rates jumped from 32 to 52 percent, showing that state employees saw the survey as a useful tool to express their opinions and voice their concerns. About the same time, at the urging of the governor and the legislature, all state-supported organizations were expected to participate in the survey.

“The growth of our survey shows an increasing orientation in the state of Texas toward building high levels of quality and responsibility in every organization,” Lauderdale reflected. “In eighteen years, our survey evolved from a tool to address one governor’s concern about employee attitudes to a tool endorsed by all governors from both parties and by the leadership of the Texas legislature.”

Creating Public Trust

In 1999 the Texas legislature passed the Customer Service Standards Act, which required all state agencies to assess customer and client attitudes and report results as a part of their respective strategic plans.

“Because of the work with the employee survey, we are also a resource for this assessment. We don’t do nearly the volume that we do for employees because the state uses many different vendors. But we serve several large agencies, including the Texas Workforce Commission and the Department of Public Safety,” Landuyt said.

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) actually provides a good example of the impact and significance of IOE work.

“The legislature gave money to DPS to create a new and better system for driver license offices, as they are notorious for having bad lines,” Landuyt explained. “They were moving towards creating mega-centers that used technology to pull people through the lines more quickly. We have been working with DPS since 1999, so they asked us to come and do a special assessment of customer perception of the mega-centers.”

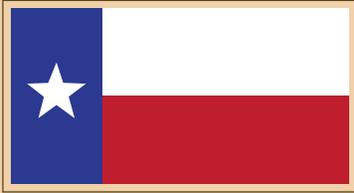
Study results showed that time spent at the mega-center was the main driver of customer satisfaction. They also showed that even when taking time out of the equation, mega-centers still increased the perception of satisfaction among customers.

“We were able to show the legislature that their investment dramatically improved the ability of this agency to satisfy citizens and provide



TEXAS

EMPLOYEE-ENGAGEMENT ASSESSMENT



SINCE 1979



- Child Welfare
- Criminal Justice
- Education
- Public Safety
- Natural Resources
- Transportation
- And more!



outstanding service,” Landuyt said. “The interesting part for us is that in the midst of the current pessimistic attitude about governmental services, we were showing that the mega-centers actually increased citizens’ public trust in that agency to do a good job.”

For the IOE team, this is the key to the survey work they do with state agencies. All those seemingly dry survey results are actually measuring something almost intangible called social capital—a concept made popular in the social sciences and civic work by sociologist Robert Putnam.

“Social capital refers to the quality of interactions among individuals within organizations and in the community,” Lauderdale explained. “To the extent that people trust each other and are willing to provide help when needed, high social capital exists. High social capital results in greater safety, prosperity, health, and innovation.”

“Industries take this incredibly seriously. They know that the level of engagement of their employees has a direct impact on how much money they make, and they know that they have to be attuned to how satisfied their customers are. State agencies are not different, except that their end goal is increasing public trust and reciprocity with the citizenry instead of increasing profits,” Landuyt added.

Training the next generation

Since the survey was first administered in 1979, much has changed in Texas. The state has experienced tremendous growth in population and prosperity, and faced the challenges that come with such growth. Lauderdale and Landuyt want to make sure that, just as in 1979, social work continues to be a resource for leaders seeking to improve organizations—both in the public and private sectors.

“What we do might not seem like social work at first sight, but it’s actually one hundred percent social work. We are doing assessments, we are doing interviews, and we are determining an intervention strategy that best fits data-driven decision-making. It does not get more social work than this,” Landuyt said.

“We want to make sure that our graduates bring the tools they learn from macro-practice research such as the survey to the hundreds of private and public organizations out there,” Lauderdale concluded. “In this way, we exponentially multiply the efforts to build trust and responsibility within organizations and with clients and citizens.” ✦

CSI: Reality Check

Social work researchers uncover the complexities of investigating and responding to sexual assault crimes

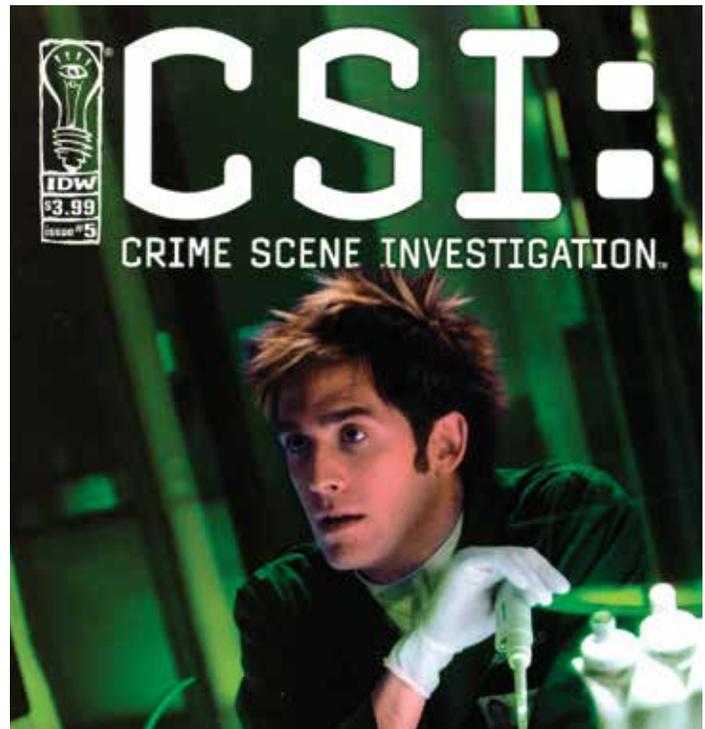
by M. Andrea Campetella

We all have seen it on CSI, the popular Crime Scene Investigation TV drama: forensic evidence is collected and sent to a lab, a key piece of information is found through DNA results, and the case is miraculously solved, all within an hour's time, including commercials.

“The reality of crime investigation is in fact much more complex than forensic testing, particularly when it comes to sexual assault crimes,” said Noël Busch-Armendariz, director of the Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (IDVSA), and associate dean for research at the School of Social Work. “DNA does help us identify the offender, but in many sexual assault crimes that’s not enough, because the case may pivot around issues of consensual versus non consensual sexual contact. Unfortunately, DNA technology cannot give answers to these complex questions.”

For the past three years, Busch-Armendariz and the IDVSA research team have experienced up close the complexity of investigating sexual assault crimes, through leading an action research project with the Houston Police Department (HPD). As the project reaches its final year in 2014, it has produced remarkable changes in the way HPD investigates sexual assault crimes, and the Houston professional community responds to them.

At the heart of these changes is IDVSA’s main contribution: an approach that empowers victims by giving them resources and a voice in the crime investigation process.



The initial problem: Untested forensic evidence

A Sexual Assault Kit, or SAK, is a box containing instructions and materials to collect relevant biological evidence from a sexual assault survivor, such as hair and vaginal or anal fluids. The victim’s body becomes, in fact, the crime scene. Specialized nurses called Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) collect the evidence if the victim makes the decision of going through this tough process.

“SAKs contain very personal evidence,” explained Caitlin Sulley, IDVSA research project director. “And let’s remember that this evidence is collected after a traumatic event and through procedures that are quite invasive. Survivors submit to these procedures because they hope that the evidence will hold the perpetrator accountable, and prevent others from experiencing a similar assault.”

Research sponsored by the National Institute of Justice, however, found that the response system was failing survivors of sexual assault crimes. A 2007 report showed that SAKs were sitting in police property rooms across the United States, untested—that is, never submitted to a crime lab.

“Depending on the extent of injuries and types of evidence to be collected, the examination by a SANE nurse may take anywhere from two to twelve hours. What will survivors’ perceptions of the response system be if nothing happens with this evidence taken from their own bodies?” Sulley asked.



Graph 1

In 2011, Busch-Armendariz with colleagues from Sam Houston State University and the Houston Police Department received funding for an action research project to address the issue of untested SAKs in Houston. After an initial assessment, HPD had determined that its property room held more than 6,600 untested kits. Some of the kits had been sitting there for more than two decades.

The approach: Action research

In an action research project, researchers work together with all stakeholders to understand the issue at hand, develop and implement strategies to produce change, and evaluate the results. The complexity of sexual assault is reflected in the number of stakeholders that respond to this type of crime. Graph 1 shows the response system in Houston, detailing responsibilities for each stakeholder.

These stakeholders joined IDVSA and Sam Houston researchers in 2011 to understand why SAKs had not been tested, devise strategies to prevent this from happening in the future, decide how to prioritize testing of SAKs that had been sitting in HPD property room, and develop strategies for the notification and re-engagement of victims. “An honest conversation for problem-solving rather than blaming

was at the heart of this collaboration,” Busch-Armendariz said. “Each stakeholder illuminated different pieces of a SAK’s complex, and many times truncated, journey from collection of evidence to use of that evidence by the criminal justice system.”

IDVSA researchers’ specific task were to give voice to victims, identify their needs in the investigation process, and determine the best way and timing for the response system to re-contact them if tested SAKs generated a match in CODIS, a national database that contains DNA samples from convicted offenders of any kind.

The process: An upward learning spiral

As the working group began to meet regularly, its members had a productive conversation about sexual assault that was transformative for all the parties involved.

“It has been an iterative learning process, which is a main strength of action research,” Sulley said. “It’s about what we learn from each other as we, as a multidisciplinary group, think and work through an issue as complex as sexual assault. “

One result of these conversations was a better coordination and integration of the multiple systems that touch a survivor's life. For instance, as the group shared information about kit testing, SANE nurses learned from crime personnel that they should put the first possible sperm evidence on a swab, instead of on the glass slide that came with the SAK.

The working group also adapted to unexpected policy changes. In September 2011, Texas Senate Bill 1636 directed that all kits be submitted for testing within thirty days of collection.

"We had learned early on that practices had changed over time in Houston," Sulley said. "Sending a SAK for testing was at times mandatory within HPD, but at other times the detectives in charge of the cases made the decision. And they might decide not to send a kit for testing because the identity of the offender was already known, or because they didn't think the victim was credible enough to make the case go forward."

At this the same time, the City of Houston decided to test all kits in their inventory. With the room for discretionary testing eliminated, the working group redirected all its efforts towards how to re-engage survivors and better serve them.

"While the senate bill and the decision of the city of Houston were important in many ways, testing results do not give us all the answers," Busch-Armendariz explained. "Each SAK belongs to a victim, and we had questions about them: did they want to be notified about test results? If so, how? What kind of support did they need? What was the impact for survivors of re-engaging with the criminal justice process, in many cases years after they reported the crime to law enforcement?"

To answer these questions, IDVSA researchers conducted interviews with survivors and the professionals who serve them. Although recommendations varied, a consensus emerged around survivors' right to have a choice and be able to exercise a degree of control in the notification process. With this information, the working group devised possible responses, which HPD then implemented into procedures.

For the last phase of the project, IDVSA researchers are evaluating these procedures. They are conducting interviews with survivors re-contacted by HPD after test results of their kits produced a DNA match that might result in an arrest.

The results: A paradigmatic shift

The long-term result of the action research project has been a paradigmatic shift in all response system agencies, with a renewed focus on survivors' needs.

The paradigmatic shift is manifested in some of the new strategies that the Houston Police Department has implemented, such as the creation of a justice advocate position within the adult sex crimes unit. The advocate is a social worker that assists victims directly, provides crisis intervention, offers information about community resources, and serves as the liaison between the victim and the detective in charge of the case. HPD has also created a sexual assault information phone line and email account that victims can contact at any time.



"The Houston Police Department showed great leadership in this regard," Sulley said. "They reached out to other police departments throughout the country to learn how they were addressing sexual assault and what kind of services they were providing to victims."

"I think the consensus is that HPD will be considered a model for addressing the issue of untested SAKs," Sulley added. "I say a model, and not the model, because certain

strategies that are good for Houston might not be feasible for other jurisdictions."

This paradigmatic shift is already having an impact on survivors' lives.

"In one of my recent interviews, a survivor told me that she has seen incredible change in HPD from her initial report years ago and the way they reached out to her now," Sulley said. "The fact that they treated her with dignity and respect, and that she was able to have a voice in the criminal justice process made her realize that change was possible in her own life."

"The shift of focus from SAKs and forensic testing to a more holistic discussion about sexual assault crimes and victim-centered responses has improved both investigations and outcomes for victims," Busch-Armendariz concluded. "This is a way forward towards a broader cultural shift about how we view sexual assault crimes in our society." ♦



GRACE for the Gray Tsunami

Training students to serve the needs of the increasing numbers of elderly Americans

by M. Andrea Campetella

One morning last fall, master's student **Delilah Dominguez** gathered with a group of older adults with varying levels of memory loss. She distributed copies of an image and gently prompted the group to talk about what they saw in it. Contributions poured in, taking all forms—long, short, descriptive, funny, lyrical, matter-of-fact—as the group engaged with the image and with each other. Dominguez, as quickly as she could, wrote each contribution on a giant board, stringing them together into a story that she then repeated orally, to the group's amusement and delight.

Dominguez led this storytelling activity every week during the fall semester, as part of her GRACE field internship. The GRACE¹ Program, which is funded by the St. David's Foundation, provides

fellowships to School of Social Work master's level students who wish to specialize in geriatric social work, or working with older adults.

“The GRACE program is a way of addressing the so-called Gray Tsunami. This term is used, sometimes in an alarmist way, to capture the impact that so many people aging at the same time will have on our society,” explained clinical professor **Sarah Swords**, who is also the GRACE program coordinator. “As social workers, our focus is on the needs: how can we best serve the needs of this growing population?”

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has predicted that, given the current trends in population aging, by 2020 the United States will require between sixty and seventy thousand social workers to serve the needs

¹ Gerontology Resources and the Aging Community in Education

of the elderly. In Central Texas alone, the Aging Services Council estimates that by 2040 older adults will comprise nearly one fifth (18%) of the region's population, up from its current eight percent.

"That's where the GRACE program comes in," Swords said. "It is a result of both the school's longstanding interest in gerontology, and population trends that are telling us to start creating solutions now."

GRACE students are required to participate in gerontology educational events throughout the year, and to do their fieldwork at agencies that provide services to older adults. One of these agencies is West Oaks Rehabilitation Center, where Dominguez was placed last fall.

"I realized that depression is a big problem in this population, as well as boredom, feelings of abandonment, and isolation," Dominguez said. "I have a background in drama that I wanted to incorporate, and that's why I decided to do the storytelling intervention for people with memory loss. It was a great experience. The group quickly grew to twenty participants or so, and they all would look forward to the meeting every week."

"The cost of college was a big concern for me, so it was exciting to know that if I wanted to work with older adults I could be supported through the GRACE program," Dominguez added.

The GRACE educational events ensure that students stay up-to-date with the latest trends and research in the field of gerontology.

"I found myself constantly bringing knowledge from the GRACE events into my internship at AGE of Central Texas," GRACE student **Adrienne Hearne** stated. "I was leading a support group for caregivers a few weeks ago and I was able to bring up this new way of presenting the stages of Alzheimer's that group participants found very illuminating."

Not all GRACE students work directly with older adults. **Wendy Whipple**, for instance, was placed at H.A.N.D, an Austin agency that offers personal care attendant services. She provided support and resources to H.A.N.D. employees, personal care assistants that in many cases work with older adults.

"That's something very interesting about the GRACE program," Whipple said. "It doesn't focus only on training social workers to provide direct services to older adults, but actually covers any service that may have an impact on this population."

GRACE students come to the field of geriatric social work for many reasons—and sometimes with a gentle push by Swords.

"Many students initially tell me that they are not interested in working with older adults," Swords said. "And then, over the course of their two years in the master's program, so many come to me and say, 'You know, I've met this older client and he has this amazing life experience, and now I want to work with older people.' I'm always on a mission, making sure that students don't forget about older adults and their families."

For Dominguez, her personal experiences with her aging grandmother played a role in her decision to come into geriatric social work.

"I was not pleased with my grandmother's experience at the end of her life, as she was shuffled from nursing home to nursing home," Dominguez said. "As I was not a social worker then, I didn't know what resources were available, or even where to look for them. Educating myself and being able to help other people in this situation was very important to me."

"I have seen what it looks like when you are aging with dignity, and when you are not. Investing in older adults is beneficial to all of us because, hopefully, we all will get there someday."

—Emerald Adler, GRACE student

For GRACE student **Emerald Adler**, working with older adults was at the same time difficult and fascinating because of the lifetime of experiences, and losses, that they have. Adler was placed at Jewish Family Services, where she ran a weekly grief and bereavement group and conducted home visits.

"I found myself addressing grief issues with everyone. Even though I might be talking with someone who is eighty years old, I'm still talking about childhood experiences, how they raised their children, things that they regret or miss, and so on," Adler said.

"I have seen what it looks like when you are aging with dignity, and when you are not," Adler added. "Investing in older adults is beneficial to all of us because, hopefully, we all will get there someday." ✧

White House Report on Campus Sexual Assault



Dr. Noël Busch-Armendariz provided expertise to the White House Task Force to Protect Students From Sexual Assault, which this past April released its first-ever report, “Not Alone.” The report lists the School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Austin as one of the three schools in the nation that is conducting research to better inform universities’ response to the problem of campus sexual assault, and that is contributing to the national body of knowledge on the subject. Busch-Ar-

Dr. Noël Busch-Armendariz and research team members from the Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (IDVSA) attended the White House event where the task force presented the report and announced a series of actions to help address the problem and make sure victims know they are not alone.

What is Theraplay?

Speaker **Mary Ring** discussed Theraplay with more than 150 attendees during the Third Annual Play Therapy Symposium this past June. Ring is an expert in this short-term, therapist-guided dyadic psychotherapy that focuses on parent-child relationships.

This symposium was possible thanks to support from The Norma and Clay Leben Endowment for Excellence in Play Therapy Methods.



Norma Leben (center) at the conference with 2013-2014 Leben Scholars

School Social Workers Conference



Adrian Rodriguez (center), of Plano ISD, honored as Texas School Social Worker of the Year

This past February the School hosted the 23rd Annual Texas School Social Workers Conference, “Supporting Opportunity and Change.” More than four hundred school-based social providers met in Austin for three days of networking and learning. Clinical associate professor **Kathy Armenta**, and director of the Office of Professional Development **Liz Nowicki** are the conference organizers. Keynote speakers included **Judy Kajander**, from YES Prep Public Schools in Houston, TX; **Nan Henderson**, from Resiliency in Action, CA; **Leonor Vargas**, from the Family Resource Center at Consuelo Mendez Middle School in Austin, TX; and **Marleen Wong**, from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, CA. **Adrian Rodriguez**, LMSW, from Plano Independent School District, was selected Texas School Social Worker of the Year.

“Texas is Prime for Restorative Justice”



Justice Janine Geske

This was the main message of former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice **Janine Geske** when she visited the UT campus this past June, invited by **Dr. Marilyn Armour** of the Institute for Restorative Justice & Restorative Dialogue at the School of Social Work. Justice Geske shared her moving experiences with restorative justice in Wisconsin to create more meaningful and effective opportunities for increased victim satisfaction, greater public safety, and substantial cost-savings to traditional correctional sanctions.

Justice Geske is a mediator in conflict resolution and an internationally renowned speaker on the development of restorative justice for formal and informal justice processes. She serves as a Distinguished Professor of Law at Marquette University Law School and director of the law school’s Restorative Justice Initiative.



Exploring the Autism Spectrum

According to the Centers for Disease Control, about 1 in 88 children are diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. This past April, the School of Social Work, together with the Golden Hat Foundation and the Autism Society of Greater Austin, hosted a panel discussion on autism to raise awareness and provide valuable knowledge and tools for the field. Panelists included **Thor Gudbrandsson**, from the Golden Hat Foundation; **Suzanne Potts** from the Autism Society of Greater Austin, and **Maria P. Hernandez** from Growing Roots.



GADE reception at the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library on The University at Texas at Austin campus

Advancing Doctoral Education in Social Work

This past April, the School of Social Work hosted the annual meeting of the Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education (GADE), an organization that gathers over eighty directors of doctoral programs in social work worldwide. Assistant Dean for Doctoral Education **Dr. Cynthia Franklin** welcomed GADE members to The University of Texas at Austin campus. This annual meeting provides GADE members with the opportunity to network and exchange ideas about curriculum, higher-education administration, and doctoral program implementation.

Photo credit: ("Exploring the Autism Spectrum"); "Autism," by hepingting, https://www.flickr.com/photos/57570482@N06/5299266396/ license at https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/

Faculty News



Noël Busch-Armendariz provided her expertise to the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual

Assault, which released its first-ever report this past May. Noël is also one of the driving forces behind the Hope Through Health clinic, which serves victims of human trafficking in Austin.



Tom Bohman received funding from the Social Security Administration in partnership with Mathematica

Policy Research Institute and University of Illinois at Chicago for the project “Demonstration to maintain independence and employment (DMIE). Long-term follow up.” The project will answer questions about the long-term effects of early-intervention services for workers with mental health problems, designed to help them maintain employment while promoting maximal levels of health and economic independence.



Esther Calzada received a two-year grant from the New York Community Trust, Lois and Samuel Silberman

Fund Faculty Grant Program, for her project “Test of multi-generational model of Mexican-American parenting and early childhood development.”



Susan De Luca has accepted a joint appointment as assistant professor with the Center for Women’s & Gender Studies.

Susan has also joined the faculty panel of Bridging Disciplines Program, School of Undergraduate Studies.



Diana DiNitto was invited to give a public Studia Generalia lecture at Tallinn University, Estonia, for which she

presented “Ending America’s War on Drugs.” She also spoke about effective addiction treatment to members of the Estonian Association of Social Workers. Diana is a member of the executive committee of the Grand Challenges for Social Work Initiative of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare.



Monica Faulkner and the team at the Child and Family Research Institute recently received a two-year grant

from the US Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health. The funded project, “The Healthy Youth Partnership: Mobilization for Health Promotion,” will increase the capacity of the Central Texas community to provide evidence-based sexual health programs to youth.



Rowena Fong is the co-chair of the Grand Challenges for Social Work Initiative from the American Academy of

Social Work and Social Welfare. This initiative seeks to engage the public in identifying ambitious yet achievable goals for society that mobilize the profession, capture the public’s imagination, and require innovation and breakthrough in science and practice.



Dorie Gilbert received the Faculty of the Year award by the Afrikan American Affairs student group and UT’s

Multicultural Engagement Center. Dorie was also selected the 2014 John L. Warfield Center for African & African American Studies Distinguished Faculty.



Faculty emerita Roberta Greene completed a Fulbright Scholars award in Israel this past January.



Lori Holleran Steiker received the 2014 Friar Centennial Teaching Fellowship, which recognizes her outstanding

teaching throughout the university, and the “Vision of Recovery Award” from Teen & Family Services. Lori has also received SAMHSA funding to investigate substance use disorders and long-term recovery for women with children participating in the Bridge the Gap program at Communities for Recovery in Austin. She is a co-founder and Board’s Director of University High School, Austin’s first sober high school, which has just opened its doors this fall.



Barbara Jones was selected as a recipient of the prestigious Regent’s Outstanding Teaching Award. This award recog-

nizes the highest quality in undergraduate instruction across The University of Texas System. Barbara was also chosen as one of the 2014 Texas 10. Nominated by alumni, the Texas 10 are among the best and most inspiring professors at the University of Texas at Austin. Finally, a book edited by Barbara, *Social Work Practice in Pediatric Palliative and End-of-Life Care. Challenges and Opportunities*, has just been published by Routledge.



Jane Maxwell was elected to the board of the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE). PIRE

is one of the nation’s preeminent research nonprofits focusing on individual and social problems associated with the use of alcohol and other drugs.

New Faculty Appointments



Yolanda Padilla was appointed Policy Research Fellow of The Institute for Urban Policy Research & Analysis at the College of Liberal Arts. She was also appointed to the Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission by the Austin City Council. Yolanda is a member of the executive committee of the Grand Challenges for Social Work Initiative of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare.



Chris Salas-Wright was awarded a grant from the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health. He will pilot-test an adaptation for student veterans of “Keepin’ it Real,” an intervention that focuses on the development of decision-making and substance-use resistance skills.



Beth Pomeroy was elected to the prestigious Academy of Distinguished Teachers at The University of Texas at Austin. The academy recognizes tenured faculty members who make significant contributions to education, particularly at the undergraduate level.



David Springer has been appointed to be the next Director of the RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service at the LBJ School of Public Affairs. He will remain in the faculty of the School of Social Work.



Mary Velasquez and her team at the Health Behavior and Research Institute (HBRT) have received funding through UT Physicians-Houston to develop and implement behavioral interventions targeting alcohol, tobacco and obesity among women in UT Health Science Center-Houston medical clinics. The HBRT team will also train UTHSC clinicians and health workers on interventions to address adverse health behaviors.



Dean Luis H. Zayas was elected a board member-at-large for the National Association of Dean and Directors of Schools of Social Work. He has been also elected to the External Advisory Board of the Migrant Clinicians Network.



Assistant professor Terrence Allen joined the School of Social Work from North Carolina Central University, where he was also the coordinator of the juvenile justice concentration. Dr. Allen’s research interest focuses on the intersection between the juvenile justice, child welfare, education and mental health systems. He is also interested in the interaction between police officers and juveniles in urban communities.



Dr. Allan Hugh Cole joined the School of Social Work as professor and associate dean for academic affairs. Dr. Cole comes from the Austin Seminary, where he served on the faculty for eleven years, the last four as academic dean. His research interests include psychosocial development of boys and men, fatherhood, social work and religion/spirituality, anxiety disorders, bereavement, and organizational leadership. He has authored or edited ten books and numerous articles in the fields of social work and the psychology of religion.



Assistant professor Lauren Gulbas joined the School of Social Work from the Department of Anthropology at Dartmouth College. As a cultural and medical anthropologist, her research explores how race, class, and gender inequalities shape cultural meanings and embodied experiences of health and illness, as well as how individuals navigate medical diagnosis and access treatment for suffering. Dr. Gulbas’s research is collaborative and interdisciplinary, cross-cutting the fields of anthropology, psychology, public health, and social work. She has engaged in several collaborative projects that examine the interface among immigration, culture change, and psychosocial distress among Hispanic youth and their families.

New Assistant Dean for Health Affairs



Dr. Barbara Jones has been appointed as the School of Social Work’s first assistant dean for health affairs. In this position, Dr. Jones will continue leading initiatives in interprofessional education, will represent the School in health-related matters at the local and national levels, and will develop the School’s relationship with the new Dell Medical School.

Class Notes

What's new? If you have personal or professional news to share with other alumni and the SSW community, please send us an email to utopian@utlists.utexas.edu

'90s

Barri Rosenbluth, MSSW '90, was honored with the Community Professional Award from the Austin Child Guidance Center. Barri is director and co-founder of SafePlace's Expect Respect program. Since 1989, she has provided leadership in developing innovative solutions to prevent sexual and dating violence among youth.

Susan B. Avery, MSSW '91, retired last year after nearly twenty-two years working as a licensed clinical social worker for the federal government. She worked for the U.S. Air Force in the family advocate program, for the U.S. Navy in the Fleet and Family Support Centers, and spent the last twelve years working with veterans at the Fort Worth Mental Health Clinic. Susan is currently enjoying her retirement in Forth Worth, Texas.

Katherine Hammer, BSW '91, is VP for Community Support at The Institute for Community Living. She was honored last December with the Mid-Career Leaders Award from the New York City Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

Herschel Knapp, MSSW '95, had her latest textbook, *Therapeutic Communication: Developing Professional Skills* (second edition) published by SAGE. In this textbook, Herschel provides emerging practitioners with a comprehensive array of communication skills and guidance in professional protocol.

Susan Mapp, MSSW '96, is a professor and chair of the social work department at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania. She is being honored by the CSWE Commission on Global Social Work Education for outstanding achievement in international social work education.

Brandi Winters, MSSW '99, was recently hired as the residential treatment center director for The Settlement Home for Children, an Austin nonprofit that serves individuals with histories of severe trauma, abuse, and neglect.

'00s

Jennifer Malone, MSSW '01, is currently Coordinator of the Office of Advising and Student Success at University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work.

John Norton, MSSW '03, works as a federal funds specialist for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Before taking this position, he worked as a contract manager and program

specialist with DFPS. John also serves on the board of directors for two nonprofits, the San Marcos Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater San Marcos Partnership.

Shane Whalley, MSSW '03, will be starting a new adventure this September as Peer Support Unit Manager for Via Hope, an organization working to change mental health structures in Texas. Whalley has served as Education Coordinator of UT's Gender and Sexuality Center for the last seven years.

Michele Vavich, MSSW '05, was named 2013 Social Worker of the Year for the Veterans Affairs Central Texas Health Care Systems, Austin Texas.

Christina Wade, MSSW '06, took a new position as Clinical Supervisor for an intensive case management program at the University of California, San Francisco, based at San Francisco General Hospital. Before taking this position, Christina worked as a forensic expert for addiction services for the Veteran's Administration in Palo Alto, CA.

Hannah Gibson-Moore, MSSW '08, gave birth to her first child, Griffin Douglas Moore, last November, and thinks that he is absolutely precious. Hannah returned to LIVESTRONG after her maternity leave. She has been working at the foundation for the past two years, providing emotional support to anyone affected by cancer.

Sarah Lackey, MSSW '08, is currently residing in Leander, TX. After working primarily with older adults in skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities, she took on a new role this year as Regional Director of Social Services for Senior Care Center.



Tiffany Anschutz and Kayle Evans at Sage

Tiffany Anschutz, MSSW '09, has recently opened Sage Recovery & Wellness Center, a substance abuse treatment center in West Austin that offers individual and family counseling, yoga, and acudetox for adults and adolescents with substance

abuse or co-occurring disorders in a comfortable, spa-like atmosphere. She hopes to host School of Social Work interns starting in spring 2015.

Kayle Evans, MSSW '09, is working with Tiffany Anschutz in the recently opened Sage Recovery & Wellness Center in West Austin. Kayle will be providing group therapy, individual therapy and acudetox.

Susan Woessner, MSSW '09, was honored as a Rising Star by the *Colorado Springs Business Journal*. Susan is the director of SafeSport at USA Swimming. In June, Susan and Ryan Mooney got engaged, and the two are planning a wedding in Spring of 2015.

'10s

Ellen Eoff, MSSW '10, is currently acting as Development and Communications Manager at One Heart World-Wide in San Francisco, California.

Will Francis, MSSW '10, is the Government Relations Director for the National Association of Social Workers – Texas Chapter. Will also married social work alum Anna Francis, and the two have a daughter named Esme.

Elizabeth Hayford, MSSW '10, was promoted to Casework Supervisor at Cal Farley's Boys Ranch. Elizabeth supervises six caseworkers and up to seventy-two adolescent boy residents. She loves her work and Cal Farley's mission.

Bethany Gartin, BSW '11, is currently working as Donor Relations Manager for the YMXA Cass Clay in Fargo, ND. This organization focuses on eliminating racism and empowering women. Bethany previously did Outreach and Development in Austin and Phoenix for Kate Winslet's national autism nonprofit, the Golden Hat Foundation.

Alba Sereno, MSSW '11, just completed her first year as Community Programs Coordinator for the Go!Austin/Vamos!Austin place-based health initiative. Alba was asked to be the feature alumna of the *Nonprofit Portfolio Studies Newsletter*, which will be published in September. Alba also will be teaching Social Justice for the UT MSSW program in the fall.

Tiffany Burd, MSSW/MPH '12, has been conducting social work and public health research in a South African township through the Fulbright program. Tiffany says the experience has been life changing, and she has UT to thank for it.

Rachel Burgreen, MSSW '12, has been working at Seton Mind Institute Behavioral Health Services facilitating Dialectical Behavior Therapy IOP groups for two years. She also recently began a private practice where she works with individuals, couples, and runs outpatient DBT groups. Her main treatment modality for individual clients is DBT, and she recently completed a level-1 Gottman Method Couples Therapy Training.

Asha Dane'el, MSSW '12, is currently working at Austin Independent School District as a coordinator for the chief academic officer. Asha's work includes project management, policy analysis, and communication. Two of her major projects this year are the development and facilitation of a district-wide literacy plan and a district-wide technology plan.

Sarah Lonsdale, MSSW '12, is working as a medical case manager for Open Door Mission in Houston. She provides medical case management for homeless men in a respite care facility called the Convalescent Care Center. She also does case management for homeless men in the center's substance abuse program, Doorway. She plans to start working towards her LCSW in the next year.

Brenda Cazares, BSW '13, accepted a position at Project GRAD Houston after graduation, where she helped to write the Amerigroup grant. She is currently a case manager for Behavioral Health Alliance of Texas, Inc. under their Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health Program. Cazares's future plans are to become a licensed social worker by the end of this year and to begin a graduate program in social work by fall of 2015.

Kelly Chirhart, MSSW '13, is currently residing in Victoria, British Columbia. Kelly is working in the community for Vancouver Coastal Health as a Social Worker Case Manager. In September Kelly will be starting a new position as Manager of Integrated Primary and Community Care for the British Columbia Ministry of Health.

Emily Fenves, MSSW '13, is currently working as a hospice social worker in the Bay Area of California. She provides patients with emotional support, end-of-life counseling, and resource referral. She says the work is very challenging, but rewarding.

Paula Gerstenblatt, PhD '13, took a position as Assistant Professor at the University of Southern Maine. In April of 2014, she received the College of Management's Community Engagement Award recognizing her work in service learning.

Sarina Shaver, BSW '13, is currently serving a term as an AmeriCorps VISTA at Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles, where she recruits volunteers for the Legacy Corps program. In November Sarina will be shifting to a new position as Legacy Corps Project Director and will begin to oversee all Legacy Corps operations.

Elise Flemming, MSSW '14, is a policy analyst with the Texas Council on Family Violence. Elise is currently working on writing policies for family violence organizations throughout Texas and on creating our legislative agenda for the upcoming season.

Erin Givarz, MSSW '14, has been hired as a part-time children's therapist at The Phoenix Center in Marble Falls, TX. Erin will be providing mental health counseling to children ages 3-18.

Tara Powell, PhD '14, has accepted a position as Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign. She plans to continue with her research and practice on post-disaster mental health and hopes to contribute to bridge research and practice in this field.

Rose Pulliam, PhD '14, has accepted a position as Assistant Professor at Texas State University.

Tiffany Ryan, PhD '14, has accepted a position as Title IV Coordinator at Northern Arizona University.

Megan Schlegel, PhD '14, has taken a position with Google in California. Megan will work with an interdisciplinary team to review privacy and user policies, figure out how to identify and eliminate child pornography from Google search results, and determine what constitutes bullying in a video so that Google can make the decision to take it down.

Shalyn Shanks, MSSW '14, is currently Parent Support and Training Program Manager at Easter Seals Central Texas. Shalyn married her husband, Danny, in July.

Save the Date!

Fall 2014



October 10

Fairbanks Lecture:
"In Case of
Emergency, Sit Still,

Do Nothing, and Listen: Psycho-
analysis and Urgent Demand"

Dr. Gilbert Cole



October 14

Otis Lecture:
"Building Assets for
All: Research and

Policy for Universal Children's
Accounts" Dr. Michael Sherraden



November 8

Fifth Annual Tailgate Party

Come and have a great time while the
Longhorns play West Virginia.



November 13

Wild & Precious

Don't miss this play written and
performed by Steve Cadwell, MSSW '80.

To receive further information and
invitations to these events, make sure we
have your updated email address. Send us
an email to utopian@utlists.utexas.edu

Ruth McRoy Selected 2014 Distinguished Alumna



Dr. McRoy (center) with her research team at the alumni reception

Ruth McRoy, Ph.D. '81, is the recipient of the 2014 Charles I. Wright Distinguished Alumna Award presented by the School of Social Work and its alumni organization, the Social Work Alumni Network (SWAN). McRoy received the award from Dean Luis H. Zayas at SWAN's annual spring alumni reception.

Dr. McRoy is the Ruby Lee Piester Centennial Professor Emerita at The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, and holds the Donahue and DiFelice Endowed Professorship at the Graduate School of Social Work at Boston College. She has been a strong contributor to the field of child welfare for more than three decades. She has received multiple honors and awards throughout her career, most recently the 2013 Children's Bureau Adoption Excellence Award.

We invite you to honor Dr. McRoy by contributing to the Ruth McRoy Scholarship Fund, a new endowment that will support students interested in working in the area of adoption and foster care. Dr. McRoy has personally donated and pledged the majority of the \$25,000 required for an endowed scholarship. She is now encouraging others to join her in this effort. You will be celebrating the more than 30 years she spent sharing her intellect, time, expertise and passion with the School of Social Work!

Welcome to Our New Advisory Council Members

Cynthia Adkins, BS in Education '74, is the Executive Director at The Institute of Rehabilitation and Research Foundation in Houston. Her daughter, Elizabeth, recently completed her BSW and MSSW at UT Austin.

Sharon Beard, BS in Home Economics '61, spent a number of years working and volunteering in Dallas, before retiring in 2000 and returning to Austin.

Quan Cosby, BSW '09, recently retired from the NFL as a Wide Receiver. He lives in Waco and is a broker at The Nitsche Group.

Jeff Duchin, BBA'98, is the Senior Vice President of Southwest Securities in Dallas. He is very active with Dallas Texas Exes and previously served as Chapter President.

Susan Finnegan, BS in Advertising '81, is a fourth generation Longhorn. She is an active volunteer, especially with the Nick Finnegan Counseling Center in Houston.

J. Gaut, BBA '82, majored in International Finance. He is a fourth generation Amarillo native, and was recently appointed as lead broker at Stan Johnson Company in Houston.

Julianne Gaut, BBA in Management '82, worked in private practice in Amarillo and served on the Potter County Child Welfare Board. She currently lives in Houston.

Bruce Kerr lives in Lake Oswego, Oregon and is a founder of The Partners Group. His daughter, Nelly, is currently enrolled at the School of Social Work.

Anna Lee, MSSW '95, is an Elite 25 real estate agent in Austin. She and her husband own Teo Espresso, Gelato & Bella Vita.

Julie Payne, BSW '82, practiced as a LMSW for nearly 10 years. She is currently the director of the Junior League of Houston Community Foundation.

Leon Payne, MBA '89. He is the founder and President of BND Interests, LLC and co-director of C. Payne Family Limited Partnership in Houston.

Tu-Ting and Rachel Tsan Endowed Presidential Scholarship



Thanks to additional contributions, the endowment named for **Tu-Ting** and **Rachel Tsan** has been reestablished as an **Endowed Presidential Scholarship**. This prestigious designation is designed to recognize

exceptional students by requiring a minimum GPA of 3.75 and awarding larger scholarships. The scholarship will continue to support juniors and seniors in the BSW program exhibiting financial need who are on track to graduate within four years or who are on track to complete a longer than four-year program within the recommended program length. Gift funds were provided by the Tsan's children, **Ms. Jenny Hoang** and **Mr. Peter Tsan** of Houston, TX, along with a match from the ExxonMobil Foundation and El Paso Corporation.

Susan McCartney Finnegan Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Social Work



This endowment was established by **Susan Finnegan, BS '81** and **Bill Finnegan, BS '78, JD '81**, of Houston, TX. Susan and Bill have been married 31 years and are the parents of three children, **Nick, Terrell** and **Scotty**. Susan is proud

to be a fourth generation Longhorn and is in good company—her husband and all three of their children are also Longhorns. She has recently joined the School's Advisory Council and when asked why she decided to get involved and make this gift she said, "The School of Social Work's mission resonates with me." Susan experienced first-hand the importance of professions like social work in 2004, when her oldest son, **Nick**, died in a car accident right before he was to begin his freshman year at UT. "Our family was helped in our healing process by many wonderful and dedicated counselors. My hope is that this endowment will help students obtain an education and pursue a career in social work so that they can help others."



THE CAMPAIGN FOR TEXAS



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Thank **YOU**

for contributing to the
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
during this campaign!

This is who **YOU** are!



1,413 Donors



This is what **YOU** made possible!



A Luncheon to Celebrate Friends and Supporters

The 2014 Celebration Luncheon welcomed nearly 200 attendees, including students, faculty, and the School of Social Work's most loyal donors. Each year this event recognizes the significant and long-term contributions of our alumni and friends, and offers scholarship representatives a chance to meet their student recipients.

The event, held at the AT&T Conference Center's Grand Ballroom, began with a reception at which doctoral candidates presented posters with their research. This was also an opportunity for everyone to meet and mingle before the luncheon began.

The program started with dean **Luis H. Zayas**'s welcome and update on the future of the School. Three inspirational speakers followed the dean's opening. **Dr. Marilyn Armour** received a standing ovation after presenting her project on restorative discipline at Edward White Middle School in San Antonio, which has resulted in dramatic declines in student suspensions.

Master's student **Travis Singley**, the first recipient of the new Cole William Adams Endowed Presidential Fellowship in Social Work, talked about the first day at his field placement and shared the lesson he learned: at the end of the day, you can laugh or you can cry, and that choice defines you as a social worker.

Closing the program was **Margery Loeb, MSSW '75**, who spoke about her motivations to create the Robert L. and Margery Engel Loeb Endowed Graduate Fellowship. As she concluded, "I wasn't making a gift, I was repaying a debt."

From Top to Bottom: 1) Marilyn Armour talking about restorative discipline, 2) Margery Loeb, Clay Shorkey, and Robert Loeb, 3) Master's student Jenny Ugalde and Jim Huff, 4) Doctoral students Karin Wachter and Karla Gonzalez discussing research

Want to learn more about how to establish an endowed scholarship? Call the development office at 512-475-6840 or visit <http://giving.utexas.edu/how-to-give/endowments/>



The UTOPIA Society Recognizing Gifts Made in FY 2014

The UTOPIA society is comprised of alumni and friends who provided monetary contributions to the School of Social Work to assist in providing excellent educational programs for our students. Listed herein are those who made personal contributions of \$100 or more between September 1, 2013 and August 31, 2014. Many others contributed their valuable time and talents to enhance the educational experiences of our students. We deeply appreciate the generosity of all of our supporters!

Champions \$5000+

Cynthia & John Adkins
 Diana M. DiNitto ♦
 Joslyn & Sean Dobson
 Jeffrey Duchin & Erin Koechel
 Sally & Tom Dunning
 Susan & Bill Finnegan
 Hon. Beverly & Balie Griffith ♦
 Jenny T. Hoang
 Norma & Clay Leben, PhD '85 ♦♦
 Robert Loeb & Margery Loeb, MSSW '75 ♦♦
 Patty & Joseph Mueller ♦
 Leon & Julie Payne, BSW '82
 L.V. Sclerandi, Jr. & Ruth Rubio, MSSW '74 ♦♦
 Hon. Pat S. Shelton
 Barbara & Joseph Walsh
 Kara N. Wells ▲
American Cancer Society
Ascension Health Ministry
Austin Community Foundation
The Casey Family Program Austin Division
Sean, Joslyn, Sean-Karr, and Johanna Grace Dobson Foundation
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
The Meadows Foundation, Inc.
National Council for Behavioral Health
The New York Community Trust
Open Society Foundations
RGK Foundation
Seton Healthcare Family
Vivian L. Smith Foundation
St. David's Foundation
Women in Social Work, Inc.

Ambassadors \$1000-4999

Clayton M. Austin
 Leo J. Borrell
 Paul Branum & Lisa Ramirez-Branum, MSSW '01 ♦
 Elaine H. Cavazos
 Barbara B. Clarke
 Susan S. Fairbanks, MSSW '81 ♦♦
 Ray Farabee ♦
 Alejandra Fernandez
 Rowena Fong
 Diana S. George, BSW '92, MSSW '94
 Tom Hecimovich
 Carrie M. Hout ♦
 Ronald G. Jackson, MSSW '70 ♦
 Renee & Bruce Kerr
 David W. Leeds
 Ruth G. McRoy, PhD '81 ♦
 Camille D. Miller, MSSW '72
 Charles B. Mullins
 Benjamin J. Nale
 Wilhelmina E. Perry
 Holly P. Scofield, MSSW '98
 Terry R. Startzel, MSSW '85
 John F. Yeaman, MSSW '72 ♦
 Thomas W. Zook
Edvance Research
Senior PsychCare

Visionaries \$500-999

Sharon J. Beard
 Peggy E. Bradley
 Julianne & J. Gaut
 Norman S. Kaderlan
 Egidio Leitao
 Sonja S. Nast, MSSW '80

Frances Teutstch Perryman
 Elizabeth C. Pomeroy, PhD '94
 Kathy T. Rider, MSSW '69
 J. Cecil Ruby III, BSW '08, MSSW '11
 Frances V. Schenkkan
 A. James Schwab, Jr., MSSW '71 ♦
 Chow B. Tin
 Kia N. Watts, MSSW '10
 Jonathan K. Weizenbaum, MSSW '87 ♦

Advocates \$250-499

Charlotte & Dan Adams, MSSW '91
 Bonnie L. Bain, MSSW '67 ♦
 Douglas S. Beall
 Paige L. Brethower, MSSW '90
 Harold D. Cox, MSSW '80
 Mary R. Dodson, BSW '93, MSSW '96 ♦
 Laura E. Donovan, BSW '94 ♦
 Russell A. Gainer, MSSW '96
 Bonny Gardner
 Dieter E. Gaupp MSSW, '52 ♦
 Norine Jaloway Gill, BSW '79, MSSW '85
 Robert L.M. Hilliard
 Anton M. Honikman
 Elizabeth & Thomas Jordan
 Jane & Peter Kretzschmar ♦
 Laura Lein ♦
 Hon. F. Scott McCown
 K. Roxanne McKee, MSSW '01
 Lisa Seals Meek, BSW '84
 Eric S. Metcalf, MSSW '95
 Joanne Farrow Olsen, MSSW '82
 Sue S. Pederson, MSSW '91
 Brandy L. Pevehouse
 Brian S. Sayers
 Kellie R. Stallings, MSSW '89 ♦
 Robert G. Teague, MSSW '93 ▲
 Kathi R. Trawver, PhD '11
 Sara & Bill Turner ▲
 Charlene A. Urwin, PhD '86 ♦
 Georgie Woessner

Friends \$100-249

Stephanie A. Ackert, MSSW '77
 Janet W. Adams, MSSW '89
 Chris K. Attal
 Susan B. Avery, MSSW '91 ♦
 Lisa S. Barton, MSSW '96
 Vivian L. Bernard
 Sherry S. Blyth, MSSW '95
 Nancy R. Box, MSSW '73 ♦
 Laura Boyd
 Kimberley H. Brenner, MSSW '98
 Truett W. Briggs, MSSW '64 ♦

Royanna J. Brix, MSSW '64 ♦
 George B. Brown, MSSW '02
 Crystal Michelle Burton, MSSW '05
 Noel B. Busch-Armenariz
 Sam A. Cangelosi, Jr., MSSW '74
 Patricia S. Cervantez, BSW '89, MSSW '94
 Jovis Chan
 Namkee G. Choi
 David N. Clauss, BSW '96, MSSW '97
 Brenda K. Coleman-Beattie
 Vicki L. Conrad, MSSW '12
 Michael R. Daley ♦
 Roberta J. Davis, PhD '88 ♦
 Louis E. DeMoll, Jr. ♦
 Ann DiNitto
 Aretha Kay Diu, BSW '86
 Hilary Alexandra Dockray, BSW '10, MSSW '12
 Bryna M. Dye, BSW '97
 Tonya E. Edmond, MSSW '87, PhD '97 ♦
 Rebekah L. Gainsley, MSSW '00
 Laura S. Galvin, BSW '95
 Jeri Ann Gates MSSW '00
 Kate E. Geitner, BSW '04
 Joe H. Giles, Sr., MSSW '65
 Andrea C. Gonzalez, MSSW '08
 Sam J. Granato, MSSW '60
 Deborah J. Grizzell, MSSW '94 ♦
 Audra L. Haney, MSSW '95
 Catherine W. Hedges, BSW '06
 Catherine H. Hein, MSSW '94
 Marta Hernandez, BSW '90
 Lora Higginbotham, BSW '02
 Heidi Hodges, MSSW '85
 Michelle R. Hoskins, BSW '96
 Ida Sue Jackson, MSSW '71
 Sarah E. Janosik, MSSW '80
 Joe M. Jenkins, MSSW '52
 Julie Eugene Johnson, MSSW '09
 Katherine E. Kingsbury, BSW '04, MSSW '05
 Julia A. Lancaster, BSW '02
 Penny Steele Larkin, MSSW '91
 Anna M. Lee, MSSW '95
 Edie Lenaburg, MSSW '92
 Charles J. Lewis
 Pamela S. Lincoln, MSSW '99 ♦
 Femma F. Lo
 Jennifer L. Luna-Idunare, MSSW '95 ♦
 Susette F. Mahaffey
 Steve D. McKee, MSSW '78
 Susan E. Millea, PhD '94
 Christen Marie Miller, BSW '05
 Jaclyn Miller, MSSW '68, PhD '92
 Salvador M. Montana, PhD '06

Ellen R. Moriarty, MSSW '00
 Sheila Mulhern, MSSW '01
 Catherine Dawn Mullan, MSSW '05
 Mary K. Mulvaney, MSSW '80 ♦
 The Hon. Elliott Naishat, MSSW '72 ♦
 Evelyn B. Neely, MSSW '67 ♦
 Theresa S. Nelson, BSW '87, MSSW '88
 Kristen Colette Nies, MSSW '10
 Holly Denise Noel, BSW '83
 Amanda B. Oakes, BSW '09, MSSW '11
 Lisa A. Padilla
 Justin D. Pirtle
 Cindra L. Rains, MSSW '01
 Mariella Reano, MSSW '06
 Keith L. Renard
 Lynn A. Repasky, MSSW '98
 Jennifer G. Rock
 Joan Escott Rudel, MSSW '96
 Patricia M. Santrock, MSSW '83
 Susan L. Schoppelrey, PhD '01
 Renee M. Senn, MSSW '95
 Julie Power Smith
 Robin McCullough Smith, MSSW '92
 Carrie H. Stephens
 Nancy F. Stewart, PhD '03
 Gail G. Sulak, MSSW '76
 Sarah L. Sutton, MSSW '91
 Jay J. Trachtenberg, MSSW '80
 Veronica J. Vargas, MSSW '02
 Mary Marden Velasquez
 Rebecca Wai
 Jean K. Walters, MSSW '72 ♦
 Laura T. Wells ▲
 Gail B. Werrbach, PhD '88
 Jennifer Weston
 Julie Ann White, MSSW '89
 Patsy Whitten-Gege, MSSW '78 &
 Eugene Whitten-Gege, MSSW '68
 Solomon Williams, MSSW '03
 Leonard I. Wilson III
 Wade A. Wilson, MSSW '67
 Lucia Wong
 Stella Wong ♦
 Samantha J. Woollard, BSW '88 ♦
 George Ybarra, MSSW '75
 Celia C. Zamadics
Human Service Technology Innovations, Inc
Sullivan & Garbe, AAL, PLLC
Texas Oral Health Coalition

♦ **Loyal Donor** – 10+ years of giving
 ▲ **Legacy Donor** – has made the School a beneficiary in their estate plans

WHY I GIVE



The easy answer is that I love the School of Social Work and I feel that it has given me so much over the last 40 years. I remember how important scholarships were to me as a student, and want to help current social work students get the best experiences they can. It is gratifying to know that even small donations can make a difference for our students and for our School.

— *Mary K. Mulvaney, MSSW '80*
Clinical Professor, School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Austin



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL WORK

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Austin, TX
Permit No. 391

The University of Texas at Austin
School of Social Work
1925 San Jacinto Blvd., Stop D3500
Austin, TX 78712-1405
www.utexas.edu/ssw

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

WHAT STARTS HERE CHANGES THE WORLD

